brought about regarding this aspect of electoral reforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): Yes, Sir. (b) and (c) The Election Commission has proposed as part of its proposals for electoral reforms that to deal with the problem of money power, it is necessary to evolve a scheme under which the burden of all legitimate election expenses could be shifted to the state. The Commission has also observed that the whole subject merited an in-depth study. This proposal along with the other proposals for electoral reforms, are intended to be discussed with the political parties before arriving at a final decision.

Shri Katasraj Temples in Pakistan in Ruins

662. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:

SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the ancient Shri Katasraj temples in Pakistan are in ruins and that many other temples are in precarious condition because of total neglect by the Government of Pakistan;

(b) whether Government have taken up the matter with Pakistan Government for the restoration of the glory of the ancient temples in that country;

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof; and

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative whether Government propose to take up the question with the Government of Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a to (d) The responsibility for the maintenance of the Katasraj temples, which are indeed in poor repair, rests squarely with the Government of Pakistan Any shortcoming noted in the upkeep of the temples have from time to time been brought to the notice of the Pakistan authorities, but there has been no perceptible improvement in the situation.

Casualties in firing in Siachen Glacier Area

663. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of times when firing by Pakistani troops on Indian Army in the Siachen glacier in the last two months took place;

(b) what is the number of casualties which took place on both the sides in each attack;

(c) whether the Government of Pakistan have rejected the Indian proposal to accept the present line of control as a solution to the Siachen glacier controversy; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government have lodged any protest with the Pak Government in this regard; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) During the last two months, there have been some incidents of unprovoked firing by Pakistani troops in the Siachen Glacier area. In the last week of September and the first week of October, Pakistani troops attacked our positions on the Saltoro range which were successfully repulsed.

(b) The above incidents have resulted in some casualties on both sides. It would not be desirable to disclose details.

(c) This area is an integral part of India. The question of delineation of a Line of Control between India & Pakistan in this area does not arise.

(d) The matter regarding Pakistan Army's build-up in this area preceding the two attacks, referred to in part (a), was taken up with Pakistan at the military level and we had expressed our concern.

U.S. allowed to use Gwadar Port to Pakistan

664. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US has been allowed by Pakistan Government to use Gwadar Port in Baluchisthan province on the South-West Coast;

(b) if so, what are the implications of this act to our security environment; and

(c) whether it has any impact in dealing with the Punjab problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government have seen such reports.

(b) and (c) The setting up of foreign bases in our neighbourhood will lead to a degradation of the security environment in the entire region. Government have made known their concerns in this regard to Pakistan. Both the USA and Pakistan have, however, denied the existence of any such base in Pakistan.

Delay in issue of Passports

665. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passports issued during the past nine months of 1987 from various Zonal Passport offices of the country, zone-wise;

(b) average time taken in the issue of passport; and

(c) the number of complaints received about the delay in the issue of passports during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) The information regarding the number of passports issued during the past nine months of 1987 from various Passport Offices in the country is as under:

Ahmedabad . .	52,585
Bangalore . .	31,312
Bareilly . . .	35,604
Bhopal . . .	10,132
Bhubaneswar . .	2,263
Bombay . .	1,72,007
Calcutta . . .	36,195
Chandigarh . .	43,608
Cochin . . .	52,032
Delhi . . .	60,092
Guwahati . .	2,807
Hyderabad . .	45,726
Jaipur . . .	20,059
Jalandhar . .	25,335
Kozhikode . .	45,509
Lucknow . .	22,831
Madras . . .	56,032
Patna . . .	6,553
Srinagar .	4,312
Tiruchirapalli .	42,021
TOTAL	7,67,015

(b) About 6 weeks depending upon receipt of clear police reports and completion of formalities by the applicants.

(c) 759.